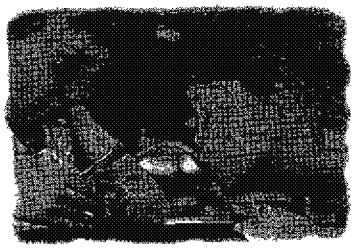
ENSURING THE QUALITY OF YOUR WATER



Our top priority has always been to ensure that the water we provide to our customers meets the highest possible standards. We must comply with strictly enforced water quality standards established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Health Department. (In order to ensure that the tap water we provide to you is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in drinking water provided in public water systems. The State Health Department's and the federal Food and Drug Administration's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health). Because of these stringent safeguards, we can reassure all our customers that, except as noted in this report, the water we deliver to them meets all local, state and federal guidelines, and New York State has among the strictest requirements in the nation.

Our water-testing laboratory is state and federally certified and is recognized as one of the most sophisticated water testing laboratories in the nation. We have developed cutting-edge testing procedures, such as for the gasoline additive MTBE, which have been adopted by the US Environmental Protection Agency and published in the Federal Register for use by other laboratories nationally. In addition, we have periodically been asked to participate in various studies by government agencies in recognition of our expertise in water quality testing.

The testing equipment in our laboratory is state-of-the-art and is capable of measuring minute traces of various contaminants down to one and two parts per billion (ppb). One part per billion, or one microgram per liter (ug/L), corresponds to one second in the life of a 32 year old person. You will see the term ppb as well as ppm (part per million) when reading the test results reported in this document.

Our approach to water quality testing is very, very conservative. We test for over 300 chemical constituents even though we are required to test for only half of these constituents. Our frequency of testing is far in excess of what is required because of our commitment to our customers to meet and exceed all water quality standards. We test water both at the wellhead and within the distribution system for a wide range of parameters including bacteria; inorganic chemicals such as nitrate, chloride and lead; volatile organic compounds including benzene, trichloroethylene and trihalomethanes; pesticides such as aldicarb and lindane; and herbicides such as simazine and atrazine.

More detailed water quality and well information is available in our supplement and may be obtained by contacting our laboratory at (631) 218-1112. Additionally, this Annual Water Quality Report will be made available through our website at www.scwa.com.

A specific example of the current water quality standards, and the known health risks of the contaminant involved, an inorganic chemical known as nitrate, may be of interest to you. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for this substance is 10 ppm (parts per million). This means that 10 ppm is the highest level of nitrate allowed in drinking water. However, cured luncheon meats or hot dogs may contain up to 500 ppm of nitrates and vegetables, such as spinach, lettuce, beets, and carrots also have significant nitrate concentrations. Drinking water normally contributes only a very small percentage of total nitrate intake.

Nitrates in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm can be a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. However, monitoring by our laboratory has found that these activities do not have a variable effect on the nitrate levels in our well sources due to seasonal rainfalls or fertilizer applications. If your water contains nitrate above 5 ppm (half of the current MCL) but below 10 ppm, and you are caring for an infant under the age of six months, you should ask for advise from your health care provider. **However, it should be noted that there has never been a recorded case of blue-baby syndrome in Suffolk County.**

About Our Nitrate Violation: Unfortunately, for the first time in our 52 year history, we exceeded a water quality standard when the allowable maximum contaminant level for nitrate was **slightly exceeded for a short period of time in two small areas of our system.** Water samples taken between October 30 and November 3, 2002 showed nitrate levels slightly in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10.0 ppm (10 mg/l) in portions of SCWA Distribution Areas 10 and 20 at an average of 10.9 ppm and 11.6 ppm respectively (see Water Distribution Area Index). At the time of the occurrence, the Authority hand delivered notices to everyone in the effected areas, so if you did not receive a notice you were not affected. In part, the notice indicated, "Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome". This specific wording is a federal requirement for notification whether a small or large amount of nitrate is present. However, the Suffolk County Department of Health Services indicated at the time, that because the levels were so low and the exposure was for such a short duration of time, the nitrate levels measured appeared to pose very little risk.

Nitrate accumulated in two of our filtration systems at a higher rate than was expected so that the filters could not capture all of the nitrate, and some additional nitrate was released into our system. The filtration systems that contributed the elevated nitrate to our system were removed immediately from service on November 4, 2002 after laboratory tests found the elevated levels. Extensive flushing of the water mains in the area was done until the water was below the MCL for nitrate, and currently remains so. If you would like more information about this nitrate violation, please contact us at (631) 563-0296 or write to our Public Relations Department at 4060 Sunrise Highway, Oakdale, NY 11769.

Another substance, radon, is a naturally-occurring radioactive gas found in soil and outdoor air that may also be found in drinking water and indoor air. Some people exposed to elevated radon levels may over many years from sources including drinking water may have an increased risk of contracting cancer. The main risk from radon is lung cancer entering indoor air from soil under homes.

In 2002, approximately one third of our wells were tested for radon quarterly, for a total of 826 samples. The test results ranged from Non-Detect (no radon was detected) to 549 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). Low levels of radon are naturally occurring in our environment. Currently, there is no established state or federal MCL for radon. For further information, call the state radon program at (800) 458-1158 or call the EPA's Radon Hotline at (800) SOS-Radon.

The EPA has promulgated a drinking water arsenic standard of 10 parts per billion that will not take effect until 2006. The current standard is 50 parts per billion (ppb). Currently, 24 of our wells contain arsenic at levels that range from 1 ppb to 6 ppb, significantly below the standard that will take effect in 2006.

In contrast, another substance we test and occasionally treat for, iron, is not a health hazard. However, since it can pose aesthetic problems, we are currently working to reduce the inconveniences it can cause our customers. In areas where the groundwater naturally contains iron levels higher than the standard, sequestering agents such as polyphosphates are added to control the iron and keep it in solution. We are also using specialized iron removal plants featuring a manganese greensand process and implementing strategies such as locating new sources of low iron water, and systematic flushing of water mains.

As most of the water we pump already meets all state and federal water quality standards, it generally does not receive extensive treatment prior to distribution. Minute traces of chlorine are routinely added according to the specifications of the state health department to inhibit bacterial growth that could occur in our water mains and tanks. We also adjust the pH level of the water we deliver to you because the water, which we pump from the ground, is naturally acidic (pH can range from 4.5 to 6.8). To prevent corrosion of customers' home plumbing, the water is chemically "buffered" by adding a hydrated lime product to increase the pH level. Caustic soda or soda ash is sometimes used instead of hydrated lime in certain portions of our system.

Approximately 10% of our wells, found to be in need of remediation for volatile organics, pesticides or herbicides, receive special, additional treatment using granular activated carbon filtration. Air strippers, ion exchange, reverse osmosis and the addition of polyphosphates for sequestering iron are also used as needed.

In conclusion, we want to thank you for taking the time to read this report. It is lengthy and contains a lot of information. If you have any questions about the information contained in this report, your drinking water, or the Authority in general, please call us at (631) 563-0296. We will be more than happy to answer your questions.

Special Information For Immuno-Compromised Individuals

New York State law requires water suppliers to notify their customers about the risks of cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis. Cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis are intestinal illnesses caused by microscopic parasites. Cryptosporidiosis can be very serious for people with weak immune systems, such as chemotherapy, dialysis or transplant patients, and people with Crohn's disease or HIV infection. There have been no known outbreaks of cryptosporidiosis or giardiasis linked to any public water supplies in Suffolk County.

People with weakened immune systems should discuss with their health care providers the need to take extra precautions such as boiling water, using certified bottled water or a specially approved home filter. **(Please note: The Suffolk County Water Authority does not recommend the use of bottled water or home filters and accepts no liability or responsibility whatsoever for their use.)** Individuals who think they may have cryptosporidiosis or giardiasis should contact their health care providers immediately. For more information on cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis, please contact the Suffolk County Department of Health Services at (631) 583-2250.

It is also important to know that some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water*, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Water quality standards are established based upon the known health risks of the contaminants involved. In order to insure the tap water we provide to you is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in drinking water provided in public water systems. These limits are called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

* As a point of information, the State Health Department's and the federal Food and Drug Administration's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

NITRATE
Nitrate, commonly found in drinking water, has an MCL of 10 ppm (parts per million). This means that 10 ppm is the highest level of nitrate allowed in drinking water. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm can be a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue-baby syndrome, where blood's ability to carry oxygen is inhibited. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If your water contains nitrate above 5 ppm (half of the current MCL) but below 10 ppm, and you are caring for an infant under the age of six months, you should ask for advice from your health care provider. Please note that there has never been a recorded case of blue-baby syndrome in Suffolk County.

IRON
Iron is naturally occurring and has no health effects. At 1,000 ug/l a substantial number of people will note the bitter astringent taste of iron. Also, at this concentration, it imparts a brownish color to laundered clothing and stains plumbing fixtures with a characteristic rust color. Staining can result at levels of 50 ug/l, lower than those detectable to taste buds. Therefore, the MCL of 300 ug/l represents a reasonable compromise as adverse aesthetics effects are minimized at this level. Many multivitamins may contain 3,000 or 4,000 micrograms of iron per capsule.

LEAD
If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. SCWA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but is not responsible for the variety of materials used in a homeowner's plumbing. If you haven't run your water for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by running your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. To schedule a lead test, please contact our Customer Service Center (contact information listed on back page). Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline(1-800-426-4791) or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING REGULATION (UCMR)
Every five years the EPA issues a regulation called the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR), which lists 20 to 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. Used as a tool to find unregulated contaminants of concern in drinking water, EPA can then determine whether to set drinking water standards or to require water providers to use certain treatment systems to reduce or eliminate these contaminants.

The second list (UCMR2) published on January 4, 2007 included the chemicals used in explosives, flame retardants and insecticides, nitrosamines (compounds produced from the disinfection of drinking water) and herbicides and herbicide by-products. As our Drinking Water Quality Reports for 2008, 2009, and 2010 indicated, we tested all our in-service wells as required and none of the chemicals from explosives or flame retardants and insecticides were detected. The SCWA continues to monitor for nitrosamines and the herbicides and herbicide by-products.

IPMP
IPMP (2-isopropyl-3-methoxypyrazine), produced by specific types of soil bacteria, causes a "raw potato" like taste and/or odor in drinking water. Some individuals may be sensitive to the taste and odor of IPMP at extremely low levels. There are no known health effects from this compound, nor has an MCL been set by EPA.

In 2011, we collected 318 samples from 152 wells where odor-causing compounds might be found. Two wells in Coram were found to have IPMP and the results ranged from non-detect (no IPMP found) to 7.00 parts per trillion. A filtration system to remove IPMP from the water produced by these wells has been constructed, and is expected to be in operation for the summer of 2012. In addition to IPMP, two other odor-causing compounds were also tested for and the results were non-detect in all 318 samples.

RADIONUCLIDES and RADIOLOGICAL MONITORING

Most drinking water sources have very low levels of naturally occurring radioactive elements called radionuclides. These levels are low enough not to be considered a public health concern. Radionuclides can be present in several forms called isotopes which emit different types of radioactive particles called alpha or beta. Some radionuclides emit gamma (also called photon) radiation. Radioactivity in water is measured in picoCuries per liter (pCi/L).

The EPA has set the maximum contaminant level (MCL), the highest level allowed in drinking water, for gross alpha (all alpha emitters except uranium and radon) at 15 pCi/L. NYS considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for gross beta. Due to differences in energy levels, the MCL in pCi/L for a particular photon emitter will depend on the type of radionuclide present. The following information describes the SCWA's radiological monitoring and test results.

Radon

Radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas found in soil and outdoor air, may also be found in drinking water and indoor air. Some people exposed to elevated radon levels from sources including drinking water may, over many years, have an increased risk of developing cancer. The main risk from radon is lung cancer entering indoor air from soil under homes. For further information, call the state radon program at (800) 458-1158 or call the EPA's Radon Hotline at (800) SOS-Radon.

In 2011 we monitored for radon, and gross alpha and beta particles at 87 locations throughout our distribution system. The results for each distribution area are noted on pages 13 through 19. Overall, the test results for radon ranged from non-detect (no radon found) to 303 pCi/L. Currently there is no established state or federal MCL for radon. EPA is proposing to require water suppliers to provide water with radon levels no higher than 4,000 pCi/L.

Radium-228

Radium, a naturally radioactive metal, occurs at very low levels in virtually all rock, soil, water, plants, and animals. An isotope of radium, radium-228 has an MCL of 5 pCi/L. Some people who drink water containing radium-228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

From October 2007 through 2009, we monitored a well in each aquifer at all our wellfields for gross alpha, gross beta and radium-228 as required, and presented the results for each year in our Drinking Water Quality Reports. Overall, the test results ranged from non-detect (no radium-228 found) to 2.70 pCi/L. Since that time, quarterly monitoring at new well fields or at new wells placed at a well field where the aquifer had not been monitored previously and continuing monitoring on existing wells as required has been performed. A summary of the test results for the 2011 monitoring is shown in the chart.

*Please see Map of SCWA Distribution Areas on pages 10 and 11 for location of Distribution Areas 11, 23 and 60

Distribution Area*	Radium-228 (pCi/L)			
	Low Value	High Value	Avg. Value	No. of Tests
11	ND	1.55	1.18	4
23	ND	1.13	ND	5
60	ND	1.92	ND	8

Tritium and Gamma Radiation

Tritium, a radioactive isotope of the element hydrogen, is a weak beta emitter. It occurs naturally in the environment in very low concentrations, and may also be produced during nuclear weapon explosions and as a byproduct from nuclear reactors. The MCL for tritium is 20,000pCi/L. Common byproducts from nuclear reactors and waste, such as cesium-137 and strontium-90, emit gamma radiation (also called photon emitters). Lead-210 is a naturally occurring beta emitter and no MCL has been set.

In 2011 we monitored 31 wells near Brookhaven National Laboratory for gross alpha and beta particles, tritium, and gamma radiation. The table below lists a summary of the 2011 test results by distribution area.

Radionuclide	Unit of Measure	Distribution Area 18* Low Value	High Value	Avg. Value	No. of Tests	Distribution Area 20* Low Value	High Value	Avg. Value	No. of Tests
Gross Alpha activity	pCi/L	ND	2.29	ND	48	ND	ND	ND	59
Gross Beta activity	pCi/L	ND	2.35	ND	48	ND	2.55	ND	59
Lead-210	pCi/L	ND	ND	ND	53	ND	856	ND	59
Tritium	pCi/L	ND	463	ND	52	ND	ND	ND	58

*Please see Map of SCWA Distribution Areas on pages 10 and 11 for location of Distribution Areas 18 and 20.

Above misrepresents RADIONUCLIDE MCLs: On July 9, 1976, EPA promulgated 40 CFR Part 141 *Drinking Water Regulations: Radionuclides* (1976 MCL rule). This 1976 MCL rule included the following MCLs: 5 pCi/L for radium-226 and radium-228 combined; 15 pCi/L for gross alpha particle activity (including radium 226, but excluding uranium and radon); and a concentration that produces a dose equivalent of 4 mrem/yr or less to the total body or any internal organ for the sum of the doses from man-made beta particles and photon emitters. A list of radionuclides that are addressed by the gross alpha MCL are provided in Attachment A to today's memorandum. Also, provided in Attachment B to today's memorandum is a list of radionuclide concentrations calculated using the 4 mrem/yr beta particles and photon emitters MCL standard. On December 7, 2000, EPA amended 40 CFR Part 141 (65 FR 76708, December 7, 2000) *National Primary Drinking Water Regulations; Radionuclides* (2000 MCL rule). This 2000 MCL rule established requirements for uranium, and retained the existing requirements for combined radium-226 and radium-228, gross alpha particle radioactivity, and beta particle and photon radioactivity. The 2000 MCL rule did include MCLGs of zero for the last four contaminants (see 40 CFR § 141.55). [From EPA CERCLA Directive no. 9283.1-14]

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions about the information contained in this report, your drinking water, or the Authority in general, please call our Customer Service Center at 631-698-9500. We will be more than happy to answer your questions. This Drinking Water Quality Report will be made available through our website at www.scwa.com.

Need more information about us? *You may also be interested in attending one of the meetings of the Suffolk County Water Authority Board of Directors. Please feel free to attend these meetings, which are generally held at 5:30 p.m. on the last Monday of the month at our headquarters in Oakdale. Additionally, the Suffolk County Department of Health Service's Office of Water Resources oversees the SCWA. If you prefer, questions regarding the SCWA and/or this report can be directed to them at 631-852-5787.*

HOW MUCH WATER DID WE SUPPLY IN 2011?

To meet the demands of our customers, we pumped **67.8 billion gallons** of water. Of that total, we billed our customers for approximately **62.4 billion gallons.** The difference of **5.4 billion gallons** is not accounted for and represents water used for flushing water mains, firefighting, street cleaning and other purposes, and water lost from the system.

SCWA Statistics-*For Calendar Year Ended December 31, 2011*

Customers	379,466
Population Served	1.2 million
Miles of Main	5,911
Fire Hydrants	36,736
Water Pumped (billion gallons)	67.8
Total Wells in System	607
Active Wells in System	572
Pump Stations	237
Storage Facilities	64
Water Storage Capacity (million gallons)	68.4
Average Annual Water Rates (164,468 gallons/customer)	$324

SCWA Offices and Contact Information

Normal business hours, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Administrative Offices
4060 Sunrise Highway Oakdale, NY 11769

Customer Service Center
2045 Route 112, Suite 5, Coram, NY 11727 (631) 698-9500

For the **Hearing Impaired** the **TDD Customer Service Number** is **589-5210**

Special Notice for Brentwood and Fair Harbor Water Districts

The Suffolk County Water Authority assumed operation of the Brentwood and Fair Harbor Water Districts in 2000. Brentwood Water District is a part of SCWA Distribution Area 12. Test results for Brentwood are included in the information in the main section of this report. Test results for Fair Harbor may be found on page 18 under Distribution Area 53. Although this notice is being provided separately, please be assured information you read elsewhere in this booklet about the protections and services we offer to our customers applies to you as well.

Special Notice for Riverside Water District

The Suffolk County Water Authority operates the Riverside Water District, and we serve approximately 1,752 people there. Test results for the Riverside Water District may be found on page 19 under Distribution Area RSWD. Although this notice is being provided separately, please be assured information you read elsewhere in this booklet about the protections and services we offer to our customers applies to you as well.

Special Notice for East Farmingdale Water District

The Suffolk County Water Authority assumed operation of the East Farmingdale Water District in October of 2010. Test results for the East Farmingdale Water District may be found on page 19 under Distribution Area EFWD and pertinent statistics are in the table shown below. Although this notice is being provided separately, please be assured information you read elsewhere in this booklet about the protections and services we offer to our customers applies to you as well.

Special Notice for Stony Brook Water District

The Suffolk County Water Authority operates the Stony Brook Water District. Test results for the Stony Brook Water District may be found on page 19 under Distribution Area SBWD and pertinent statistics are in the table shown below. Although this notice is being provided separately, please be assured information you read elsewhere in this booklet about the protections and services we offer to our customers applies to you as well.

East Farmingdale Water District Statistics

Customers	2,400
Population Served	7,200
Miles of Main	44
Fire Hydrants	452
Water Used (Million Gallons)	618
Average Annual Bill (213,636 gallons)	$239
Water Billed (Million Gallons)	594
Percentage of Water Unaccounted for	7%

Stony Brook Water District Statistics

Customers	1,623
Population Served	4,869
Miles of Main	26
Fire Hydrants	218
Water Used (Million Gallons)	207
Average Annual Bill (133,411 gallons)	$66
Water Billed (Million Gallons)	199
Percentage of Water Unaccounted for	7%

Federal Public Water Supply ID Numbers

Brentwood Water District	5103692	Riverside Water District	5105655
East Farmingdale Water District	5103701	Stony Brook Water District	5103698
Fair Harbor Water District	5110599	Suffolk County Water Authority	5110526

MISSION STATEMENT

"We pledge to provide safe, pure and constantly tested drinking water at the lowest possible cost with exemplary customer service."

OUR WATER SOURCE

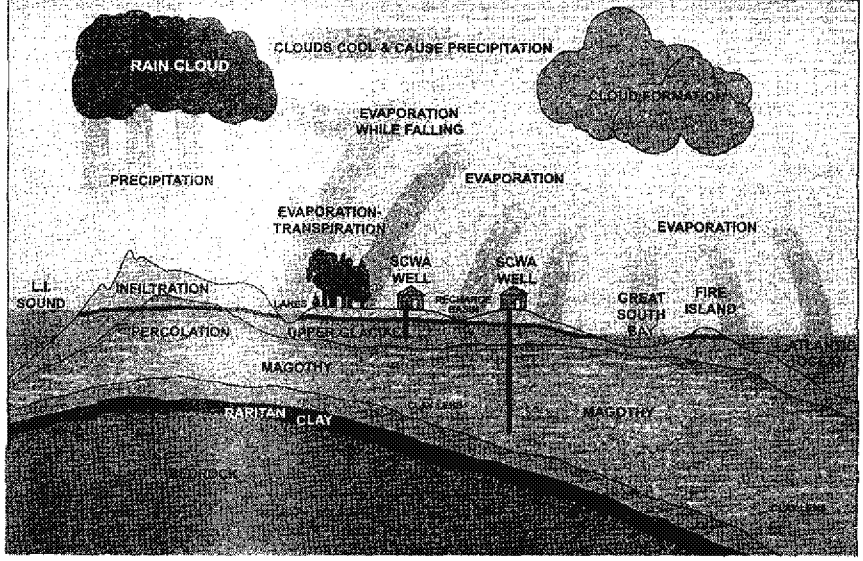
In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) can include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants.

All of the water we supply to you comes from beneath the ground and is referred to as groundwater. The water is stored beneath the ground in a sandy, geological formation known as the Aquifer System. Water in the Aquifer System originates as precipitation (such as rain and snow), which slowly percolates down through the soil and into the aquifers. There are three primary formations which lie, one on the other, and make up the Long Island Aquifer System. From the shallowest to the deepest, these formations are:

Glacial — contains the youngest or newest water to the groundwater system. The Water Authority has 213 wells drawing from this portion of the aquifer. Virtually all private wells draw from the Glacial Aquifer.
Magothy — is the largest of the three formations and holds the most water, much of which is hundreds of years old. There are 309 Water Authority wells drawing from this portion of the aquifer.
Lloyd — is a largely-untapped layer which contains the oldest water, some of which has been held in the Aquifer System for more than 5,000 years. The Water Authority has four Lloyd wells.

The total depth of the Long Island Aquifer System is smallest on the north shore (approximately 600 feet) and deepest along the south shore (approximately 2000 feet).

THE WATER CYCLE ON LONG ISLAND



PROTECTING AND CONSERVING OUR GROUNDWATER

To ensure that the people of Suffolk County will continue to have access to the purest, most pristine groundwater in the future, the Water Authority has been in the forefront of measures to protect our aquifers for the years to come. We took the lead in sponsoring the pine barrens protection bills that have resulted in the preservation of 100,000 acres of land in central Suffolk, and we continue to provide technical support and advice to protect this unique resource.

We have committed a significant amount of resources to educate the public in environmentally friendly lawn care techniques they can use around their homes to reduce the amount of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides they apply to their lawns and gardens. We also believe it is in everyone's best interest to reduce the number and amounts of toxic chemicals used around our homes and places of business. Print advertisements and radio advertisements will be seen and heard throughout the spring and summer season promoting these organic techniques.

We have partnered with the Long Island Groundwater Research Institute at SUNY Stony Brook to scientifically study the benefits of organic lawn care at our own office facilities and will share these results with our customers.

Part of this same program serves to educate the public on the best ways to water their lawns. Using proper watering techniques, our customers will find their lawns are healthier and that they can reduce or eliminate the amount of fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides they typically use. And, with proper watering, they will find their lawns are more drought tolerant and that they can use less water.

CONSERVING WATER

Although Suffolk County, as a whole, has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve this precious, life-giving resource:

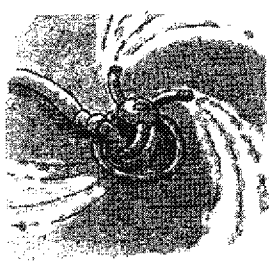
- Saving water reduces our need for electricity to run our well pumps.
- Saving water reduces the need to construct new wells, water mains and tanks to meet peak demand.
- Saving water, particularly in areas with limited supply such as the North Fork, ensures that there will be an adequate supply for future generations.
- Saving water during periods of high demand ensures that there will be sufficient water pressure to provide adequate firefighting capabilities.

HOW CAN YOU CONSERVE WATER ?

Conserving water is not difficult, can save you money, and save this precious, life-giving resource. Please do the following around your home:

- Check for leaky faucets inside and outside your home or business. *Even a small* leak can waste hundreds of gallons of water a day!

- Check for leaking toilets that can waste water by placing vegetable food dye in the tank. Do not flush the toilet If after 20 minutes you see the dye in the bowl, you have a silent leak.



- Consider installing water conserving showerheads. New designs offer a satisfying shower while reducing water consumption by over 50%.

- Use your washing machine and dishwasher with full loads only.

- When using a hose outside, use a trigger nozzle to turn the water off automatically.

- Use a rain gauge or empty coffee can to measure how much water you are putting on your lawn. Remember, a lawn only needs 1.5 to 2 inches of water per week (including rain!) and water once or twice per week, not every day following the odd/even rule.

- When seeding your lawn, use fescue seed. It needs far less water than other seed varieties and does quite well on Long Island.